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Granville Ms.  
Feb 7 1911

Dear Bessie:-

You were right.  
I was about to send you another epistle but thought I had better wait maybe you would remember that you were indebted to me for one.

I certainly enjoyed myself the evening I was there and you may be assured I shall repeat the pleasure as often as I can or you will allow me.

That cake & coffee could it be beat. I am like  
a girl that once boarded where I did. She  
said there was nothing better than cake but  
more cake. I harkly agree with her. It  
makes no difference about the variety just so  
it's cake.

I think you and Nellie could probably get  
up some religious excitement on Ethel's part if  
you would do as a certain woman did Aunt  
Susan was telling me about.

You know they used to hold outdoor  
meetings when the weather was good and  
everyone for miles around attended - and  
stayed sometimes for weeks. Along in the  
fifties they were holding a meeting not far  
from here and the preacher had expected  
and wanted and done everything else they usually  
do when they try to get something started like  
they call it, but it was no use. He wasn't a  
quitter though. Finally down one of the aisles  
one of the good sisters jumped out and began  
screaming and dancing up and down as they  
usually do when they get religious. The preacher  
made a dive for her with his hand ex-

tryed saying "Oh; sister I am so  
glad to see you come out and say  
you have religion." Her answer  
between screams was "I haven't got it  
I haven't got it. There's a lizard on  
my desk and she kept on dancing.  
until Aunt Sue and someone else  
took her outside and one of these  
little lizards fell off her desk.  
Try it on Ethel. It will work I think.  
Remember Miss Southern very  
well your opinion of her is good.  
Many said that the preacher was  
giving dances card players and  
theater goers fits. Well he has done  
all these things until he is tired

of them. Now he has taken to  
preaching for a change.

I also have strayed from the  
Presbyterian fold, though I remem-  
ber my Sunday School days very well.  
I am, by religion like everything else.  
I hold there is more in action  
than in talking. I had an uncle who  
said when one of his neighbors got  
religion strong on Sunday, he was  
going to lock his smokehouse on  
Monday. I think he was right from  
the little I have observed.

We had a neighbor out here who  
could sing louder and talk more  
fervently in meetin' than anyone I.

overhead. He'd say in every prayer "Lord help this congregation to stop and think where there's a goin' on at." We finally found that he beat his wife and did every thing else that'soney.

I think religion is something one should have on Wednesday and Thursday as well as Sunday. Therefore I don't believe that these protracted meetings do any real good they are mostly excitement and when the excitement wears off people are as they always were.

I like to play cards and dance as far as I know how and go to shows and do all the things they said I shouldn't but I don't feel badly about it. I go when I feel like it and the good church members are glad to hear what it's like. You see I'm a member but not a strenuous one.

I suppose I am getting to be a bore by this time but I like to get letters so well especially from you that I do the best I can to deserve them. I shall be in Independence on the 14<sup>th</sup> to attend the Probate Court (think of it.) and if you are at home

I should like very much to come  
around again.

I am glad your mother like my  
efforts on the piano. I am ashamed  
of it myself. But you know a  
farmer can't be a pianist much  
as he'd like to be. Harry is getting  
to be a pretty good piano player.  
Very tickled as Shazzy Short says.  
He says his piano has a wheel barrel  
movement and a fine escapement.  
It was an old fashioned square.  
Write when you can. To  
Yours sincerely  
Harry.  
Can't spell my own name.

Franklin Mo.

Mar 19 1911

Dear Bessie:

I sincerely hope you enjoyed the playing of that musical editor as well as I did. He was simply great. You know that I think when good music is played in his style it is always enjoyable.

Now I didn't cause you to do anything against your religious principles. You know that I know nothing about dent and such things and when I was urging you to go with me to dinner at the Baltimore

I was merely thinking of giving you all a good time. That was the first time I was ever at an Episcopal Church and I like the service very much. But I guess I'll have to remain a light foot Baptist for a while yet anyway. You know I told you that Dad had strayed from the Presbyterian fold; but I went in the other direction. In place of more form we haven't any. But there are many things I do not like. For instance they do not want a person to go to shows or dance or do anything for a good time. Well I like to do all those things and play cards besides. So you see I am not very strong as a Baptist. Anyhow I don't think any church on earth will take you to heaven if you're not real anyway. I believe in people living what they believe and talking afterwards. don't you?

Well hang religion anyway; it's a dull subject; but I'll not ask you to dinner any more till after Easter Sunday. Will that be all right?

Mary has not arrived home yet. The last I heard of her she was in Independence.

When she gets down there she never  
knows when to come home; and I  
don't blame her. I like Independence  
and if I ever get rich enough to re-  
tire (be a retired farmah.) I think  
I'll land in Independence.

We go to sowing oats in the morning.  
It will take a week or two as we have  
about 80 acres to sow. Mr. Hall wanted  
to know of me if we were planting  
wheat now. You know a town Spamer  
always gets his seeds mixed. We sow  
wheat, oats and grass seed and plant  
corn and potatoes. See the difference?  
I did certainly enjoy Miss Dicey's

(I guess that's how you spell her),  
excitable conversation. I bet she is  
a person who enjoys life. You know  
when people can get excited over the  
ordinary things in life they live. You  
know a good author makes common  
things seem great in books and people  
who can live them that way always  
enjoy life. I never did know that she  
lived that way and only one man. Neither  
of them can cross the street without  
having an adventure worth telling of.  
When she was telling about those  
chickens and that trip to St Louis  
I thought I'd go up. I guess

they thought I was perfect chump because  
I forgot to tell them and you too that I enjoyed  
the evening but I most certainly did and you  
please tell them will you? Next time I'll  
do better provided I can have a next time.

Mamma has seven little chickens and more  
coming. They looked rather out of place when  
we had that snow. I told her she would have to  
begin knitting socks if she was going to  
raise chickens in the winter. The last few days  
have been fine on them though. One of my  
numerous cousins was over this evening  
and she had seventy six chickens big enough  
to fly. They were incubator chickens. I hope  
you don't cook yours before they hatch. They  
say that is generally what happens the first  
time. So be careful.

Did you get your suitcase alright? I wish  
we had thought and taken it to the Fly Life  
Blog and then we could have got it! No one  
~~ever~~ ever thought that man would play  
at a time. They don't generally.

Now please don't wait so long to write  
as I do enjoy your letters even if you

(I guess that's how you spell her),  
excitement conversation. I bet she is  
a person who enjoys life. You know  
when people can get excited over the  
ordinary things in life they live. You  
know a good author makes common  
things seem great in books and people  
who can live them that way always  
enjoy life. I never did know but one  
boy that way and only one man. Neither  
of them can cross the street without  
having an adventure worth telling of.  
When she was telling about those  
chickens and that trip to St Louis  
I thought I'd go up. I guess

Grandma H. C.  
May 3 1911

Dear Bessie:-

I don't care what kind of paper you write on. I should be just as pleased to get a letter from you on wrapping paper as on the finest stationery stuff. So write whether you have any stationery or not, although that last looked good enough for anybody to me.

I am sorry to hear of your chickens dying. Grandma has lost quite a number though. She says it is the cold damp weather more than anything else, and then some of fees she says have been supporting families upon themselves. She is going to dip them as soon

as the weather will permit and then she says  
they'll be all right.

I had a letter from Delia saying she was  
going to quit teaching in Independence and  
go down to Sugar Creek. They offered her a  
larger salary. I told her not to fall in love with  
a bohemian but if she ran across a Standard  
Oil Magnate to not him.

Your remarks on the setting and privilege of  
the oldest one of a family are absolute true  
as I can testify from experience. Although  
the other two back me down that I am always  
the settled one.

I have been reading David Copperfield and  
have really found out that I couldn't appreciate  
Dickens before. I have only read Oliver Twist  
and Tale of Two Cities. They didn't make much of  
an impression and I never read anything else.  
A neighbor sent me Dombey & Son & David C  
and I am glad for it has awakened a new  
interest. It is almost a reconciliation to having  
my leg broken to contemplate the amount of  
reading I am going to do this summer. I am getting  
better fast and I am afraid I'll get well so  
soon I won't get to read enough. Isn't that  
an awful thought?

I really don't mind staying in the house  
on rainy cloudy days like this but when they

are nice like last Sunday I can hardly sit still. I begin to think of course to plant gardens to make grass seed to sow and a hundred and one things to do and then I pick up a magazine and forget it. I am not worrying much I guess for they tell me I am getting fat. Then papa is able to get around now and will soon throw his crutches away and then things will hum.

I guess I won't get rich this year although we did break up a field that hasn't had a crop raised on it since 1873. I was figuring on raising 5000 bushels of corn and at least paying my debts but as Mr. Nicander says

my creditors will have to wait.  
I do think that Dr. Griswold is the  
keftest person I have run across  
in any book anywhere. He is exactly  
true to life. I know a half dozen of  
him right here in Grandmier. They  
are always waiting for something  
to turn up or for someone to  
die and leave them something. I never  
expect to be rich but if I can't  
make what I get myself without  
waiting for someone to leave it to  
me I hope somebody will knock  
me on the head and put me out of  
danger.

I am sorry Ethel didn't get out  
Sunday as I'd ~~have~~ like to see her  
as well as get the book. I told Delia

to tell her if she didn't bring it out  
next Sunday I am going to get in an  
ambulance and come after it.

I guess you'll have a good time  
with your bridge club. Speaking of  
people crying at plays I don't think  
there is anything funnier. That is  
the only way I enjoy a tragedy is to  
laugh at those who cry. Uncle Harrison  
says he'd rather go to the Orpheum  
and laugh all evening than sit and  
grate the enamel off his false teeth  
to see Mansfield or Sothern or any other  
big gun. He is very near right, I think.  
Well I hope you'll consider this worth an  
answer as I'll be glad to get one. Am  
hoping to be around in ten days anyway.

Sincerely Harry.

Grandview Mo.

May 23 1911

Dear Bessie:-

I guess there is nothing  
for me to do but wait until Farn  
arrive and then remove Ethel's ring.  
I sure thought I was consigning you,  
book & life to a safe messenger when  
I gave them to her. Vian has it said  
a word about them to me. I shall  
corner him tonight. I have an idea  
a certain lady friend of his could tell  
me where they are if he doesn't. I  
shall try and make preparation for the book  
anyway if it doesn't eventually reach you.  
I have enjoyed Viana's immensely. I sup-  
pose it depicts Ronna's life realistically  
but I like for them to be more cheerful

about it. I am going to read the book again. I found out the name of a Romeo Bruson that history never says anything about in it. He ~~all~~ really existed too. You see I have n't anything to do but run down historic rumors, and every book I read since I have been laid up that mentions anyone at all in history I never heard of causes me to look him up. I always forget him five minutes afterwards but I have the satisfaction of knowing he was anyway.

I really wish Rex Beach would do something with that Neen Do Well and he does up that. It makes you feel like the end of the year instead of the middle the way he charts it out.

I've an idea the poor boy'll loose his job now and his girl and then have a love feart, with his old man come back and get the girl and the R.R.P., and live happily until alimay time. What do you think?

May's ~~cousin~~ <sup>uncle</sup> in Texas sent her two horned toads in a box by mail the other day. She thought it was a box of pills. It was all wrapped up and very small. You ought to have heard her squawk when she opened the box. You know they have tails and horns on their heads, <sup>hair like mane on their heads.</sup> and are furious looking little brutes, but are harmless. They feast on ~~flies~~, ants etc. I don't see how these two lived for the box was air tight.

May and Vina went to the Ruskin High School Commencement Thursday night. Said it was fine.

I guess they are all fine the  
first few times but when very many  
pass they get old don't you think?  
They sure must be getting nifly an  
Independence if the workers wanted to  
wear claw hammer coats. That's  
spreading things thick. The N.C Post  
has offered  $\frac{1}{8}$  cent per the prettiest graduation  
dress not to cost over  $\$5.00$ . Do you suppose  
one can be made for that?

The train was the finest thing this  
year. If it hadn't come we would have  
gone to the mall sure enough. Now  
we expect to raise something anyway.  
I hate rainy days generally but these  
lactoxes sure looked good to me.

I have an illustration of what  
happens to people who set grocery store  
eggs. I am enclosing it. Did any of yours

come out that way? Literature set at  
do not go very well with poultry do they?  
One good gang of poultry though ~~though~~ <sup>just</sup>  
more for the country though than all  
the art ~~has~~ Yankees could buy. You  
know I think a man who is a pianist  
is the last thing on earth. They do no  
good for themselves or anyone else. I  
never did see one who paid his debts  
if there was anyway to avoid it.  
That shows his artistic temperament,  
that a lot of long hair and a kangaroo  
walk. Sometimes they go dingy or get  
two or three divorces. That also is a  
temperamental sign. Some French  
alienist says that geniuses are insane  
anyway. I guess he is right in some

cases anyway. It is all right to hear  
artist or pianist if you are a real  
genius like Liszt or Hoffman or  
Turner or Whistler but the ordinary  
run of every day artists and pianists  
who imitate these men what do.

I really thought once I'd be an  
iron tickler but I am glad my money  
ran out before I got too far. Who  
knows maybe I'll be a Cincinnati  
and be elected constable some day.

If you had called up the other day I'd  
have made it to the show some way.  
I can get around the house to some  
extent. Soon as ever I can persuade  
the M.D. to take the cast off I'll do fine.  
I hope you'll consider this worthy an  
answer I'd like to see me - Smith I bet  
its fine. This is the end of my stationery Sincerely  
Harry.

Grandview Mo.  
Nov 1, 1911

Dear Besie:-

I am most awful glad you think a letter to me worth while. They are more than worth while to me. You can never guess how glad I am to get them.

I really didn't mean to put my principle desire in the past tense. That is something that will never be past with me. My grammar was at fault, that's all.

I suppose Ethel has told you all about the wedding. I was scared nearly to death and so was Virian. Luella was as calm as if she'd been married a dozen times before. She is more like my grandmother.

Young than anyone I know. If my dear Lett doesn't make a success with her to help him he should be flattered out. Everyone is so well satisfied with the match something surely will happen. Even her grandmother thinks Vivian is almost good enough for her and mamma says she's too good for him. They are down to see in laws tonight. Vivian actually told me that they were going to town tomorrow to buy the furniture they need. I guess they'll be at home about Monday or Tuesday. The charron is set for Saturday I think. If it is I'll not be present for I am coming to Independence if you'll have me at home. I am going with Mary and Ethel and Hattie to the Schubert Saturday afternoon and I'd like very much to come down that night provided of course that you have nothing better to do.

I want an auto so badly tonight I really don't know what to do. I have a special invitation to assist in the dedication of a new Lodge at Seeger Park. I shall stay at home because I'd simply be a chunk of ice by the time I drove to 67<sup>th</sup> Street in a buggy. I couldn't go on the train because papa & I had to pull up the carrots and beets and bury them this afternoon so they wouldn't freeze. If we get my debts paid and then have something left I'm going to invest it in a benzine buggy as the horses sag. Then I suppose I'll have the debt to pay over. Just imagine how often I'd run the pike from here to Independence. I guess

you'd better be glad I haven't one for  
I'd simply make my self monotonous  
to you. I guess there'll not be much  
danger of my coming too often this  
winter for I'll have to work a trifle  
Ethel to the contrary notwithstanding.  
I always make it a point to invite  
them out when things are arranged so  
I haven't anything to do but tease  
and torment them. That is how Ethel  
arrived at her conclusion.

The W. M series begins soon I see.  
Don't you forget you have pianist dates  
with me to go. Pianists are all I can  
stand this winter. I am crazy about any  
kind of pretty music but of course I  
can appreciate pianists most. Mary has  
been practicing on a Mozart Sonata  
that has the most beautiful melody I  
know of. It makes you think of Greek

and Roman fairy stories. Did you ever sit and listen to an orchestra play a fine overture and imagine that things were as they ought to be and not as they are? Music that I can understand always makes me feel that way. I think some of the old masters must have been in communication with a fairy goddess of some sort. That is Mozart, Chopin and Verdi were. Wagner and Bach evidently were in cahoots with Pluto. Did you ever know that some of those men wrote the most trash imaginable for pot-boilers? Raff has over a thousand compositions and about nine hundred are fit for nothing. He'd write one every time he got hungry. I guess you can't blame the poor man. That is the reason rulers should be wise enough to pick

~~and pension them~~  
the genives so they can do their best.  
It seems to me that they would be  
easy enough picked out because they  
always beat their ~~wives~~ wives, or run away  
with some other man's. Wouldn't Reno  
be full of pensioners?

I hope you'll be at home Saturday  
If you're not it'll be my loss of course  
I'll phone in the morning some time  
after I get to town.

You see I am sending you the  
other half of that sheet I tore in two before.

I want you to show me some start  
ing when I come down. I never saw any  
I guess even it is ancient. If I have  
I knew it not. You owe me a letter  
now. Next time I'll wind up and fill too full  
sheets. Now you know what coming so soon.

Sincerely Harry

Grandview Mo.  
Jan. 17 I think.

Dear Bessie:-

My South Missouri Limited left Sheffield on the dot and was two hours late at Grandview, which I think is a record that would be hard to beat. There were only about twenty passengers and we had to do acrobatic stunts up and down the aisle and take turns at an old stove in one end of the car to keep warm. I didn't get cold, but there was a woman and a baby that did, at least the kid made a noise as if it was. Coming from the depot I really got too hot. You know I had a cap, mittens and overshoes waiting for me and I walked

as if His Majesty was behind me which made  
me feel as if he was. Do you know they had  
quit looking for me and had eaten all the hot  
mince pie. That made me wish more than ever  
that I had stayed in Independence. Mary finally  
went and got me a piece that was cold and I  
managed to eat it. Just a half pie was all.  
Not all I ate just all the pie I ate.

I have something I want to say now while  
it's on my mind. I think you look better in  
that black dress you wore Thursday evening  
than in anything I ever saw you wear. I  
intended telling you so when you wore it  
to the show in N. L. but the proper opportunity  
didn't appear. The strawberry blond isn't in it  
with you when you wear that dress. A any  
other time for that matter. That sounds awful  
 mushy don't it? It's not though when it  
is meant. Will you please tell me how  
you made that caramel desert you had for  
dinner the time before this last when I was  
there? I can taste that from memory yet.  
It was undoubtedly nectar of the gods. I am  
going to coerce Mary into making me enough  
to ponder on if you'll tell me how it's made.  
How did Miss Jessie & Miss Dice enjoy the show  
I guess the kids spread themselves on Friday

night. I wish I'd stayed and gone again. It was so cold I had to postpone our lodge meeting anyway. I really don't know what I am going to do if people take me for Mr Buffum. I can't get over it some way. And Ella said someone took me for Tom Davis when I was in Emery Birds with Ethel just before Christmas. I really don't see what I've done to merit such treatment. Of course the other people may feel as badly over it as I do but that doesn't help matters. How would you like to be taken for Miss Jennie? Really it will be dangerous to your good name to be seen out with me if they keep it up. I'll have to hock my overcoat and buy a black one and get a monocle for

each eye then I'll be a person all myself.

I just got a fine letter from Miss Maggie. She forgave me for not coming to her dinner party and said she'd give me a dinner yet, and I need not take her to a show just because I didn't get there. I'm going to take her now sure. Miss Maggie thinks too well of me that is she has too good an opinion of me. I wish she didn't. It's awful hard to live up to good opinions and do the right thing at the right time especially when you have an insane desire to do something real crazy. I have always had that desire but never the nerve to put it over publicly yet. Some day

perhaps I'll create a small stir  
among my friends and acquaintances  
by robbing a bank (the clock stopped when  
I wrote that) or doing some other  
Diamond Dick stunt. You know  
I like Adventure — when it's some  
body else's adventure. I may even  
persuade you to run off with me  
some day when you're not in  
your right mind exactly.

Now you owe me a letter on the  
strength of that last statement  
if no other. Please send it along.  
The lawyer's coming tomorrow and  
Hany stays at home so be sure and  
write Sincerely Hany.

Dear Bess:-

I had started you the most doleful letter you ever got from me Monday. It was one long apology for getting sick Sunday and not being able to hear Bryan on Tuesday. After looking it over I've decided to discard the whole sheet and start new. Though I doubt if my empty head can conjure up anything that will interest you. Rememba I was up

Followed on Thursday Wednesday  
Friday Saturday Sunday and Tuesday.  
getting up each day at five. You  
can see that even Napoleon couldn't  
expect any more of a person in  
the way of wakefulness. Wednesday I  
was to see you Thursday we had  
callers ourselves Friday hedge Saturday  
went calling and you know where  
I went Sunday and Tuesday. I  
had the most cursed nap Sunday  
morning you ever read of. Hold  
you I think that Uncle Harrison  
occupied a bed in my room Saturday  
night and began arousing me at  
half past four. I finally got up at  
six and decided to take a nap from  
~~the~~ seven to ten. The telephone and  
neighbors calling knocked that out. So  
with all my loss of sleep I must

have been very poor company Sunday night. For the rest of this week it is the key for me at 9 P.M. except of course Friday for the D.D. Q. M. of the 59th Masonic District of Mo. And Sunday night if you'll let me come. Maybe I'll have to work and can't I hope not though.

You really don't know how much I enjoyed Mr. Bryan. I am one of his staunchest admirers. In B.

would not have been half  
so good though had you not  
been present. You know any  
show is good to me, unless  
it's positively rotten, if I can  
only see it with you. Let's  
hope that some rainy cool  
day soon real soon the  
sooner the better that we  
have him in K.C. at  
well the Hinky dink? or  
tent and grand or somather  
place equally as good or

better and then see all the pictures  
that can be crowded into four hours.  
What say you? That'll be a regular  
12th street stunt but ~~if~~ <sup>I</sup> ~~says~~ I don't  
have a good time doing what every  
body does he'll live a mighty foul  
life won't he? I'm sure you must  
like picture shows or you wouldn't  
go every night in the week. My conscience  
still hurts me a little yet for keeping  
you from going to the Chautauqua in  
the evening Tuesday. If I'd only kept  
my head shut about K.C. I'll let you'd  
have gone. Well a person must do  
the wrong thing sometimes just so  
he can have something to be sorry  
for. I can positively assure you  
though you missed not much.  
Thought it might have been better  
than what you did see. I'm no  
judge though and thought that

Show pretty good.

Do you know I did the  
weirdest thing this afternoon  
I was cutting oats right here  
close to the house and am-  
putated the left foot of an old  
hen with five chickens. I felt  
badly about it too. She was over  
in the oats where I couldn't  
see her till I'd already done  
it. Nannie says she'll get all  
right. I hope so. I'd rather any-  
thing most than to hurt some-  
thing that can't tell me

what it thinks of me feeding  
it. That old hen was more  
worried over what became of  
her chickens than she was over  
her pot. There are people  
who could very well profit by  
her example.

Please forgive the Sunday  
school book story but it  
happened and that's what  
I thought of it.

Please "borrow" more of  
George's paper when you  
will not because of the

sizable letters but because  
it holds more and makes  
a longer letter. He maybe  
won't mind a few sheets  
and besides I bet he's used  
lots of yours last winter.

Tell your mother her fine  
dinner made me entirely  
well and I'm as good as  
new. That Sally L. was sure  
fine as good as if you'd made  
it. That's some compliment  
too. Write quick.

Sincerely Harry.

Dear Revs:

As a weather prophet  
I guess most any old farma  
has P Conner beaten to a  
frazzle. It is sprinkling rain  
now and prospects are good  
for a trash mow. Caught  
the limited last night all  
right. There were five or six  
got off at Gardner. Most of  
them were well diggers for  
Mr Johnson. It's nice to have  
company when you are  
scared even if you don't  
know the company extra

well. It was as dark as a stack  
of sunbeams last night and both  
dogs attempted to eat me up as  
I came into the gate. Hold Mary  
that I intended giving the Collie  
to you. She nearly had a spasm.  
She pretends to be very much at-  
tached to it. I think that two dogs are  
generally two too many. We have  
a good neighbor up the road who  
has three big fat ones and his  
horses and cows are so poor they  
can hardly mangat. One dog is a  
sufficiency on a farm and one  
too many in town. They say that  
when an assessor doesn't want  
to be reelected the best thing for  
him to do is to enumerate all  
the dogs in his district. I have an  
idea that it would be very ef-  
fective if a person had a desire  
for unpopularity.

Aileen and Uncle Harrison  
are both here. I have had a  
fuss with Aileen already. I  
didn't do anything but throw  
a small piece of bread at her.  
It had some pea soup on it  
but I wasn't aware of that  
fact until it landed on her neck.  
She has been very cool ever  
since that chunk of bread  
took her one in the neck.  
Some people are touchy anyway.  
She'll get over it if she stays  
long around here. What  
Aileen needs is two or three

brothers to pick on her  
turn about. I guess you  
can appreciate what a fine  
effect brothers have on girls.

My dear much is squalling  
for me to come and enter-  
tain him at a game of  
Coon Can. Can you play it?  
It's some game if you  
play for fun or if you  
have plenty of money and  
are hucky. Only play for  
fun with him. I'll be home

hesly broke ~~spare~~ if I had to  
part with a dollar every time  
he beat me. That's the usual  
price of a game. I hope most  
sincerely that it will rain itself  
out before the 4th, and also that it  
will rain enough Saturday that  
Bill can't think of Warreastburg  
and yet leave the roads good  
too. I shall be on deck at your  
house about 9 o'clock <sup>8:45</sup> or ~~9:15~~. It  
will be necessary for us to  
leave at not later than nine be-  
cause the train leaves Sheffield  
at 9:33. We will then arrive at  
Pete's at about eleven, a very proper  
hour for country style.  
It's necessary that I have this

to a close Uncle Harry  
is having a fit to play  
cards and he's gotten to the  
point where he has to be  
conciliated. (can't spell it)

I hope you have got well  
forget to ask about it Sunday  
you should have hinged a  
little to remind me. Well  
I hope to see you Friday  
evening as well as Sunday  
morning. You owe me a  
letter. Please use the cloth  
size like this Sincerely Harry

Dear Bess:-

I succeeded in prying  
Mary loose from the Nolands in  
time for the car - although I  
didn't have much time to spare.  
Girls always can think of pretty  
things to say at the very last  
minute. I have Mary fairly well  
trained though when it comes to  
catching trains. I suppose the  
girls are coming out to spend  
the week end of next week. Mary  
said so any way. I think she  
is intending to have Dr Lester's  
family come over on the same  
day. Won't we have a picnic.  
I see where I make me a

led at the barn. It wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't for the bugs. The hay is new and sweet and all the poets say but it is more besides. Poets always fail to mention bugs and snakes. There's one very tiny red bug that ought to be immortalized by Kipling or some other poet who writes jingles. I think that I succeeded in depleting the supply in Mrs Lester's yard - anyway. Those said red bugs always make one so glad they are not as large as grasshoppers or crickets. There really wouldn't be any use in humans trying to live if they were. Can you imagine the size bums a chigger as big as a grasshopper could make? They don't have them east of the Mississippi. I am wishing most heartily that Mrs Lester's party had been in Ill or Indiana although I fear very much that if it had been I'd never have gone. Now I don't suppose I could ever induce the hostess to construe that last remark as a com-

pliment do you? It was <sup>not</sup> meant  
as it is said for I really had  
a very nice time. I am sleepy  
today and Kansas hard chiggers  
are very very industrious so  
if I say anything to you that  
has a sound of ambiguity  
just remember I mean well  
but am not responsible.

I hope the creek will hurry  
and arrive at the proper  
stage for us to go fishing. By  
then I shall be leather hided and  
tough enough to resist at-  
tacks by any kind of insect  
in this state. I suppose

we shall have to take some liquid bait along. The kind that Hamlet always labeled "Danish Snake Bite Cure." You know that a fishing excursion is never complete without at least a small bottle. That's what makes the fish that fall back look so large. I have even heard of cases where after using a little of this liquid bait a person could dump his can of worms and catch fresh ones as they came to hand provided they were not too large. I suppose pieces of pink and purple snakes

would make acceptable look food for fish. I suppose also it would be well for us to come home by the river road so we can buy a few fish from the fishermen. That also is entirely customary. I am going to bring a pair of Khadi overalls for mading purposes. There's no use going to the creek if you can't go into it.

Did you ever see the Dredosa in the moon? I imagined I saw her. The proper directions are to think off your countenance and then you can see it. I don't know how the girls are supposed to see it. Probably imagine that they are gazing into a mirror. I'd rather look at the real thing than to hurt my eyes and pain my head gazing into the moon's face. Not that I'd ever dare ~~---~~ to put forth any effort whatever to conjure up your face because it's always in plain sight. I never see a pretty girl or the picture of one that I don't think, well if she didn't have this im-

perfection or that one why she'd  
look like Bess. You know per-  
fection can only be reached  
once. You're it. So what's the  
use imagining you in the  
moon when I can see you  
self at Independence.

The fishermen won't come  
today but perhaps tomorrow. I  
hoped they come today so I  
could get to town some day  
this week but I guess I won't  
get in. Hope to see you Sunday  
though. You now owe me a  
table cloth sized letter.

Sincerely  
Harry.

Dear Bess:-

I am going to send you  
a late letter to-day, hoping I'll  
get one before the week's out.

My Club meeting was a very  
tame affair. The boozers were not  
out and I was persuaded to  
defer any action in regard to  
selling the lot stuff until after  
Nov. 11 when Grandview is going  
to have a Township Fair. As

Pres of the Coal Club I instructed  
a committee to buy some ad-  
vertising matter and also to  
raise some money to buy it  
with. It seems that money  
has to be in everything

I am almost persuaded sometimes  
that it's bigger than most things. Extrac-  
tenders are well represented in the  
House of Lords (Burgesses they call themselves)  
as well as in New York's most exclusive  
set. All on account of their ill gotten  
gains. There's no use being a scoundrel  
though. As Rutha Mrs. Clay would say ~~it's~~  
it's better to be poor but honest  
even if it does hurt like - blazes  
sometimes. In the last month nearly  
every person I've dealt with in business  
has taken some cash and left me  
holding the sack. It's a good thing I  
wasn't appointed on the committee  
to raise money because I'd be tempted  
to embezzle some of the funds.

We are due to have a card party at  
our house tomorrow night. Some of  
the grandmier folks are coming down  
to Learn to play 500, with me to tell 'em  
how. Won't that be a joyous got. I am  
going to have a good time at it  
anyway though. They are all rather  
hilarious and you know I'm not  
very backward myself when it comes  
to making noise. If I could only  
make money as easily as I do

stir up a racket I'd have begged  
persuaded or coaxed you into  
thinking Harry was the nicest  
boy in seventeen states. But  
never mind my ship's going  
to come in yet and if it doesn't  
have you aboard it'll only be a  
charred hulk and not worth  
the candle. You know I told you  
once before that I thought you  
the superlative of excellence in  
every thing - and I think it harder  
all the time. I've been crazy  
about you ever since I can  
remember. I hope it's a mutual  
admiration society because then  
I can work harder and not  
get half so tired. You know  
when the motives strong

enough a man can do most  
any thing if he's got the stuff  
in him. Perhaps I have n't got  
it but there's nothing like  
trying to find out.

Who knows I may be His Ex-  
cellency the Gov of Montana  
some day (see how) How would  
you like to be this Gov?

I dreamed that I owned a  
German Silver mine in Wy-  
oming last night! Wasn't  
that a grand dream on a  
piece of Bridie cake? I guess  
the spangles and white flouts  
gave me the silver suggestion  
but where under heaven could

I get the German part? From my  
Grandad on my mother's side I  
guess he was a Dutchman.  
Papa has gone to sleep in his  
cham. He's waiting very patiently  
for me to finish my letter so he  
can go to bed. He occupies the couch  
down here by the stove. I don't feel a  
bit like going to bed now I've got  
the habit of staying up I guess  
But my oh me how I hate to  
arise at 5 a. m. It has to be done  
though when papa's around home.  
If he goes to bed at half past  
pm he gets up at five and so do  
I. Mamma is a sleepy head like  
me. She never wants to get up but  
she can stay up till the small  
hours at night.

I guess this letter is a mistake  
and doesn't amount to much. I  
hope you'll answer it though  
My letters get one day later every  
week. You'll get this one Friday  
unless I mail it on the K.C.S.  
at 6:30 tomorrow. I lost one

by doing that and I'm not  
going to do it again.

Hope to see you Sunday  
evening and get a letter Sunday  
morning.

Most sincerely  
Harry.

Papa's going to K.C. tomorrow  
if I can trust him maybe you'll  
get this Thursday.

Dear Mrs.:

We are in Ft Stockton today.

I didn't get to write at San Angelo because we didn't stop long enough. It is about to rain here for the first time since November. Uncle Harrison and I were driven out to a big alfalfa field this morning and he got cold. Said if he ever thawed out he'd never freeze again in this country anyway. I hate about gives up hope for this proposition now. There's no harm done though, because the old gent feels better than he has for two months. My only task will be getting him home from Kansas

serenty from north to south.

I just heard a Dutchman make a joke.  
Someone asked him to have a drink. No duck  
you'd said I never drink between drinks.

The train has made another start.  
My most excellent penmanship is made  
almost illegible by the motion. It affects  
the spelling also. It is nearly impossible  
for me to spell correctly at any time  
and when the train rocks the alphabet  
becomes jumbled completely in my  
head. I hope to see you on Wednesday  
evening. Hold the thought for my good  
luck. There's no one wants to win half  
so badly as I do. Will call up when  
I arrive in town. Dreamt I was taking  
you to the show last night. Had a new  
machine (not a Ford either) I can make the  
show part come true but not the  
mechane. There's one waiting for me.

Sincerely Harry.

City. He's feeling so well that he'll want to stay there.

There are several Dutchmen aboard who think the country is very fine. They are all going to buy.

The stock agent of the Orient road is with us. He's a real southerner, raised on a plantation at Nacelle Texas. He's been arrested by KKK and had all kinds of experience. His home is San Angelo. He says that town has more millionaires than any other town in the country its size. They are cow men. One of them owns a couple of Texas counties. This county we are in has an area equal to two Rhode Islands. It's about 100 miles long and

T. C. H. MINING COMPANY  
ZINC AND LEAD ORESADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE  
TO HOME OFFICE.

Commerce, Okla., Aug 5 1916

Dear Boss:

I wrote you yesterday and promised to write again today. Mr. Hughes got a wire from home yesterday evening that his barn had burned, hay, oats and all. He and Mrs. Hughes had to go home and see about it so Sam is full charge. I don't seem to be in charge of much. The mine all but shut blind last night. So I shall probably have to ride the rods home instead of the new car. I'm going to give her one more week and then take the consequences. If Jerry Culbertson would get busy and raise some money we could go ahead yet but I doubt if he'll ever take any more interest in the thing now. I may go into the auto business down here if I can make the old mine produce even a reasonable amount.

There is no Ford agency here. One would pay about \$5000<sup>00</sup> a year. They sell about 700 cars every year here, besides supplies and tires. ~~with~~

I have only gone in the hole on this hole about \$11,000<sup>00</sup>. Do you suppose I'll ever catch up? I

T. C. H. MINING COMPANY  
ZINC AND LEAD ORESADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE  
TO HOME OFFICE.

Commerce, Okla.,

191

think I will. Uncle Harry will probably cut me off his will but that can't be helped. If you still have faith in my poor judgement Dean still wins. You know a man's judgement is good or bad accordingly as he wins or loses on a proposition. It seems to me that its one big guess and the fellow who guesses right is the man of good judgement. I am going to keep guessing. Mamma says that Grandpa Young was cleaned out three times that she can remember but he came up every time with something else. This is only once for me but its a once that I surely hate to contemplate. I am still hoping the next round of slots will make us a Blue Goose. There's nothing equals this business for making McCauleys of men. They really and truly expect something to turn up. Please send me another good letter right away. I make two trips a day to the P.O. looking for your letters.

Most sincerely  
Harry.

Nov 15 1918

Dear Bess:

Your good letter of Oct 26 came today and you of course can guess how happy I am to get it. I am enclosing the 40 cents for the very nice things you sent to me. Being written with red ink reminds me of a letter I received from one of my Irishmen the other day. He started out with blue ink and ran out so he said well here goes with a little blood and went on and finished his letter with red ink. I suppose his girl thought he really used blood. A letter from you written with charcoal chalk or clay would be fine enough to send me into the seventh heaven. I don't care what they're written with long as I get them.

I am very glad that Pike Sando holds no malice for my having busted him. You know it is the hardest job a man ever undertook to be absolutely square and just to 194 men when

never did the Hun score a hit on me.

There are rumors rife that we will go to Germany to do police and rioting duty. I'd rather go home but if your Uncle Samuel needs us in Germany to Germany we'll go and be as happy as we can. We got in on the last train and fixed up to the best how and I suppose that is the reason they'll send us if they do. Shall I bring you some German spoons and tableware or just some plain boat in the form of graft money? I hope they give me Coblenz or Cologne to hold down there should be a good opportunity for a rising young Captain with an itching palm shouldn't there? I can't remember when I was ever taken any beauty sleep unless it was some time when I'd been up for 60 or 65 hours and was probably sleeping the next twenty four. I have done that several times. Once I was up so long I thought General would want to get fed anymore. The Major made me and I felt better after 24 hours of sleep. I hope Bill Boston has a good time and I wish I was in his place, except that I'd like to bring the Battery home now that it has gone through the war with me. I hope to ride a prancing steed down Grand Ave at the head of D Bty, the bust in the column when the last parade before the Gunster out is made. I dreamed last night that I was trying to exchange a 100 franc note for real money in a Kansas City bank. It was a disappointment when I found I wasn't there.

I got a letter from Fred today and shall proceed to answer it. Please keep writing to one who thinks of you

Always  
Harry

Harry Truman  
Capt. D Bty FA  
American E.

you lose good ones and I do too  
(every few bad) smart ones and dull  
ones. I lose em all and if anybody  
wants a fight or a quarrel with me  
he can get it suddenly and all he  
wants if he says anything derogatory  
about my battery or one of my  
men. I wouldn't trade off the <sup>best</sup> ~~worst~~  
one I've got for any other whole  
battery. While I'm not a braggart  
I believe I can take my outfit and  
beat any other one in the A.E.F. shooting  
or doing any other kind of battery work.  
(Every Bty. Commander in the regiment says  
the same thing) I recommended one of  
my kids to go to West Point and he was  
one out of 7 in the A.E.F. to go. I was  
as proud of him as if I'd done it myself.

You know I have succeeded in doing  
what it was my greatest ambition  
to do at the beginning of the war. That  
is to take a battery through as B.C.  
and not lose a man. We fired some  
10000 or 12000 rounds at Heine and we  
shelled ourselves time and again but

Near Verdun  
Camp La Bahalle  
Dec. 14, 1918

Dear Bessie:-

It is a dark unwholesome French day and I am frankly homesick and very very lonesome. Christmas is approaching and I can't possibly see those I want to and I do so wish I could. I can't even send you a present that I'm sure you'll get, not even a cat's-grau. This devilish place is about seven kilometers from Verdun in a patch of woods. The sun hasn't shone in I don't know how many days nor does it look as if it ever intended to shine again.

I guess it will though and I know its shining in USA and at Nice.

physically, make 'em write to the manmas and sweet  
hearts and bring 'em all home. I shall be as nearly  
pleased with myself as I ever expect to be until  
the one great event of my life is pulled off which  
I am fondly hoping will take place immediately  
on my having helped that 194 men in U.S.A.  
You'll have to take a leading part in that event you  
know and then far ore great future. I've al-  
most come to the conclusion that it's not  
intended for me ever to be very rich nor very  
poor and I am about convinced that that will  
be about the happiest state a man can be. To  
have the finest girl in all the whole world (and  
I make the statement without fear of contradiction)  
to share my joys and troubles, mostly joys I'm

hoping, to have just enough of this world's goods  
to make it pleasant to try for more, to own a  
Ford and tour the U.S.A. and France perhaps, al-  
though I've nearly promised old Miss Liberty that  
she'll have to turn around to see me again, and  
still have a nice little country home to be  
comfortable in - well that's really not a bad  
future to contemplate. Maybe lose a little  
politics and some nice little dinner parties or-  
eationally, just for good measure. How does it  
sound to you? Just its contemplation has al-  
most cured me of the blues.

You know when I was a kid say about 13 or 14  
I was a tremendous reader of heavy literature  
like Homer, Abbott Lives, Lucretius, Isaiah and

I am so glad you are a general. I shall  
always expect you to outrank me in our  
household and there is never any pos-  
sibility of my ever being anything in the  
military line beyond a Captain, although  
had the war continued, which God  
forbid, I should eventually have had an-  
other promotion. You tell Geo Fred and  
Mary that I would have appreciated  
the major's leaves and the compliment  
very highly but I'd never have man-  
aged them. All promotions ceased in the  
A.E.F. on Nov. 11, 1918 the greatest day in  
history. Personally I'd rather be a Battery  
Commander than a Brigadier General. I am  
nearly the dictator of the actions of 194  
men and if I succeed in making them  
work as one, keep them healthy morally

the Memoirs of Napoleon Bonapart.  
Then it was my ambition to make  
Napolean look like a sucker and I  
thirsted for a West Point education  
so I could be one of the oppressors as  
the kid said when asked why he wanted  
to go there. You'd never guess why I  
had such a mild desire and you'll  
laugh when I tell you. It was only  
so you could be the leading lady of  
the palace or empire or whatever  
it was I wanted to build. You may  
not believe it but my notion as to  
who is the best girl in the world has  
never changed and my military am-  
bition has faded by being arrived at  
the post of centurian and that's a  
big way from Caesar isn't it?

point where I do the questioning it seems real  
funny and I can't understand why I was  
ever afraid. I asked one man in line why he  
had no pistol and he swallowed about three  
times and finally succeeded in saying No, sir!  
I found out that he was a replacement from  
the S.Q.S. and he'd been told that all the Captains  
of our Battn were hard boiled cookies and  
he'd better step straight. My Irish are not afraid  
of me nor the Colonel either. In fact they some  
times are very nearly disrespectful to him  
when he acts ludicrously they laugh at him.  
I rather admire em for it.

You are probably bound stiff by this time  
but I am writing you just as I feel today.  
I do wish I could see you Christmas day. I'll  
be thinking of you as I usually do anyway.  
I hope to have a fitter present for you  
next Christmas than the one I tried to send  
you this one. Keep on writing to one who  
thinks of you. Always

Hanry Sturman Harry.

Capt 1295 A

American Ex

France.

Now I want to be a farmer. Can you  
beat it? I'm hoping you'll like the brute  
just as well as you would have  
the Napoleon. I'm sure the farmer will  
be the happier.

Today was our regular inspection  
day and I had to inspect Pete's battery  
and Salisbury inspected mine. Pete  
looked over Salisbury's. The Chief Gorilla  
gave me a very nice clean bill of  
health and of course I gave Pete one.

You've no idea how scared some of  
these men get when a Captain stops  
in the inspecting process and asks  
him a question. Most of em would  
rather go over the top than talk on in-  
spection day. I used to be that way  
myself but since I've got to the



COUNTY COURT  
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

ROBERT W. BARR  
ASSOCIATE JUDGE  
EASTERN DISTRICT

HARRY S. TRUMAN  
PRESIDING JUDGE

THOMAS B. BASH  
HOWARD J. GOODMAN  
ASSOCIATE JUDGE  
WESTERN DISTRICT

INDEPENDENCE, MO.

Ft Riley, July 17, 1929

Dear Bessie:

Well another perfect day. The letter was in the box when I came in from the flying point. I am glad that the baby had a good time at the park and the flying field. I want her to do everything and have everything and still have that most people have to work to live, and I don't want her to be a high hat.

I took my field glasses to the ord. nance office of the 128<sup>th</sup> F.A. and had them cleaned. They are just as good as the day I bought them now and I would n't trade them for a new pair because of the semi-repaired attachment. Maybe you don't know it

but I guess I am two thirds dam  
fool and the other third sentimental.  
Whenever I see a yellow headed little  
girl I want to pick her up and  
squeeze her, when I meet a member  
of my battery I do it even  
okay and good for nothing he is  
he can have whatever I've got and  
when I think of school days I always  
think of a pretty little girl with curly  
down her back who grew into the  
best and sweetest sweetheart a  
man ever had and I wish I  
could see her now. Kiss my baby  
and look for me some time Satu-  
day I hope; will phone you if I  
am latee. You good for nothing but  
my next to no sonny husband  
HARRY.



European Plan

## Hotel Robidoux

Accommodations for 500 Guests

Absolutely Fire Proof

St. Joseph, Mo.

Sunday May 7, 1933

Dear Bee:

This has been a very dull Sunday. I came up here last night to a Legion affair and stayed all night and I'm still here at noon. It was a good party but I had to leave it. As usual they got too rough and I'm still in politics. I was supposed to go to the Lake of the Ozarks yesterday with Neild, Bosley and Lueyer, but Neild had to go home so that party was called off. I went out to the farm and had dinner and the phone began its usual tatus and I came up here. I'll leave for the farm in a few minutes because the room at home has not paint on the floor.

Tomorrow I'll be forty nine and for all

the good I've done the party might as well be  
left off. Take it all together though the experience  
has been worth while, I'd like to do it again.  
I've been in railroad, bank, farm, war, politics  
lose (only one and it still sticks) been busted and  
still am and yet I have stayed an idealist.  
I still believe that my sweet heart is the ideal  
woman and that my daughter is her duplicate.  
I think that for all the horrors of war it still  
makes a man if he's one to start with. Politics  
should make a thief, a rascal, and a scoundrel of  
anyone but I don't believe I'm any of them  
and if I can get the Kansas City Circuit House  
done without scandal no other Judge will  
have done as much and then maybe I can  
retire as Collector and you and the young  
lady can take some European and South  
American trips where they'll do you most  
good; or maybe go to live in Washington and  
see all the great and very great in action.  
We'll see. I'm counting the days till I see you.  
Lots of love to you both Harry.

not enough time to get  
out now but will do it later

Harry S. Truman  
Independence, Mo.

Washington D.C.

Dec 11, 1935

Dear Best:

Well I am up to date on all

correspondence, have no appointments  
except to eat dinner with Oscar  
and my head doesn't ache. You've  
no idea how very pleasant  
that is. If you and Margey had  
just come on with me every  
thing would be perfect. I dread  
the trip home because I know  
what they'll do to me.

And yet it's a peculiar feeling  
to have nothing hanging over me. I  
keep wanting to do something - there's  
a driving force inside me that  
makes me get into things I can't  
sit still and do nothing. I se-

read the Interstate Commerce Law  
in the last two days and will  
start on the Court decisions unless  
something interferes. I'm going to be  
better informed on the transportation  
problem than anyone here including  
Eustisaa if I can manage it.

I'm also studying the banking law.

I wish I'd get a letter every day,  
but they just have it got lined  
out yet. The apartment business  
is all lined out now and I  
look for nothing to worry us there.  
We can get Bettie if we want her  
I'm sure. Kiss Marger and keep  
writing. Love to you both

Harry S. Truman  
Independence, Mo.

Washington D.C.

Sunday June 28

Dear Bess:

I was so lonesome last night I just had to spend four dollars to call you up. If I'd stayed in Philly it would have cost me five for a hotel and I'd gotten wet besides. The N.Y. Times said this morning that everyone got soaked but they stayed away, a hundred and six thousand of them to hear and see the President and Coates Jack. That's a real tribute. His speech was masterpiece I think. The Convention was like all such gatherings, just one grand yell from start to finish and in order pick out what went on if was necessary to read

the papers or go down to a hotel  
and listen to the radio. You could  
n't tell what was happening by  
being on the floor. I was there every  
day and every night except Thursday  
night. When they nominated Roosevelt  
I left after an hour. Jim Pendleton  
got the leg of his pants ripped down  
the front on a railing during the  
demonstration. Luckily he had an-  
other pair - it was a Ted Works suit.  
I went to bed early Friday night got up  
at 5 A.M. real tired and drove down  
here. Cleaned up the pressing mail  
and slept all afternoon. Called you  
up and then went to bed. I've been  
cleaning off my desk this morning.  
Have two waste baskets full of  
"important" paper to throw away.

Harry S. Truman  
Independence, Mo.

I hope you are enjoying the day.  
It's just about as hot here as it  
was in Independence June 28, 1919.  
I wish I had a grey checked suit to  
celebrate in, but I have it so put  
on a white one. There is no  
special prize for seventeen years  
of married life that I could dis-  
cover so you'll have to make  
out without any. I'd like to be  
there to take you out to dinner  
though. Lots of water has gone un-  
der the bridge since then. War horses  
are no longer that. They are now  
looked upon as a sort of nuisance  
and are considered fools to have

gone. Clark made the statement  
that if his pa had been President  
there'd have been no war at all.  
Oh well!

I think my sweetheart is better  
looking today than ever, if that  
is possible and you know it is  
not fashionable now to think that  
of the same one. Please kiss Margie  
and I hope I get that letter  
tomorrow if it hasn't in the  
mail this morning.

Love to you and I hope  
for at least seventeen more

Harry S. Truman

Independence, Mo.

Pennsylvania Train  
No. 30 to Washington D.C. 11/137.

Dear Bess! It was good to hear your voice last night, but not half as good as really seeing and talking to you - even if my combination of words makes you sick sometimes. I suppose I'm a clown and a fool but I've never cared much how words were combined if their meaning happened to be honest and sincere, and that is all words are for. Maybe you don't know it, but I'd rather lose a hand or have an eye pulled out than make you a moment's suffering or hurt - either mentally or physically. I've seen so much difficulty caused by sheer ruthlessness that I tried all my life to be thoughtful and to make every person I come in contact with happy for having seen me. Maybe that's silly too. I don't know. I've never paid any attention to what people here said about me and very little to what they say to me, because most people only mean about half they say. Well the sun has

been shining all afternoon, although it  
snowed all forenoon in St Louis. The  
B. & O. canceled their 11:58 train last night  
and the Pennsylvania 12:30 A. M. train  
gets to Washington at exactly the same  
hour as the one that leaves at nine  
the next morning, so I decided to take  
the noon train "Spirit of St Louis" and  
arrive at 9:25 two hours after the other  
two. The Gov. was most cordial but he  
is going to do as he pleases - and so  
would I if I were in his shoes. I really  
believe he'll make one of this locum's real  
ones. Any way he's not a boozie fighter  
nor is he running after the ladies.  
So if we don't get jobs for the faithful  
maybe the State will profit any way. He  
likes pomp and circumstance and maybe  
that's all there is to say of it. The road  
is rough. Kiss Maggie; love to you Harry.

Berlin, 7/11/45.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Bess: The letter came last night while I was at Joe's dinner. Was I glad to get it! No you taste in hats is not skewed. If you ever cultivate the same sort of you far crazy hats that the two you gave those Paris ones to, have I'll refuse to go to church with you. I'd say that is a dire threat. Your hats suit me and theirs do not.

I can't get Chanel #5. Padre says there is none to be had - not even on the black market. His Lorraine station is in Paris. But I managed to get some other kind for \$6.00 an ounce at the American P.X. They said it is equal to #5 and

sells for \$35.00 an ounce at home. So if you don't like it a profit can be made on it. I bought you a Belgian lace hankie set - the prettiest thing you ever saw. I'm not going to tell you what it cost - you'd probably have a receiver appointed for me and officially take over the strong box. But I came out a few dollars to the good in the game of chance on the boat - so it's invested in a luxury for you.

The Padre has had a good time. He and Charlie Ross hit it off perfectly, and of course Vaughan, Ardaman and Capt. were his old buddies of Ft. Riley and Leavenworth. I'm going to wake at 11:30, presided over by him. I've

already been to a Protestant service  
so I guess I should stand in good  
with the Almighty for the coming  
week - and my how I'll need it.

But I seem to have Joe & Winnie  
talking to themselves and both are be-  
ing exceedingly careful with me.  
Uncle Joe gave this dinner last night.  
There were at least 25 toasts - so  
much getting up and down that there  
was practically no time to eat or  
drink either - a very good thing. Being  
the superduper guest I pulled out at  
11 o'clock after a lousy piano and violin  
concert by a dirty faced quartet. The  
two men play the piano, the two women  
the violin. I never heard any better  
ones. Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Liszt; Hungarian

POSTMARK DATE 7-24-45

Rhapsody, Russia, Ukraine and Polish  
folk dances - it was real music.  
Since I'd had America's No 1 pianist to  
play for Uncle Joe at my dinner he  
had to go - me lame letter. I had one and  
one violinist - and he had two o' each.

He talked to me confidentially at the  
dinner and I believe things will be  
all right in most instances. Some  
things we won't and can't agree on - but  
I have already what I came for. Hope  
I can break it off in a few days.

The weather is perfect and I feel  
fine. The fog, say there's never been  
a conference as well presided over.  
The Senate gave me some good experience  
Lots of love, kiss the baby,  
Harry.

March 4, 1947

Dear Ross: We arrived on  
the dot at 10 A.M. Left KC  
at 3:04 and had to slow  
down so we would not ar-  
rise too soon. I rode with  
the pilot as we went over  
the 10,000 foot rim of the  
Valley of Mexico City. Popocatepetl  
came into view about a hun-  
dred miles from the valley,  
but we couldn't see Oizatl

because of the haze. Orizaba  
is just west of Vera Cruz  
and rises right out of the  
sea level place to 18700 feet.

Popo is a thousand feet lower.

The airport was lined with  
people and the Mexicans put  
on a real show for me.

The Mayor of the City and Gov. of  
the Federal District (the same man)  
made me guest of honor and  
presented me with a solid  
gold medal weighing a half

round with the arms of the  
city on one side and a re-  
plica of the Aztec calendar  
stone on the other. I saw  
it all day to the delight of  
the Mexican President.

He has a beautiful home  
where I called on him,  
and three lovely children,  
two boys and a girl. I met  
the First Lady of Mexico and she  
is a charming person.  
The President told me at the

bouquet that she was highly  
pleased with the presents you  
sent. They are sending you  
a silver tea service.

Last night's affair was a colossal  
one. The streets were packed from  
the Embassy, to the Palace and  
at least 10,000 were in the square  
in front of it. The President & I  
had to greet them from the  
balcony in Franz Joseph style. Vera  
had such a welcome. Hope every-  
thing is going well. Tell Harry to  
behave! Lots of love Harry

Sept. 30, 1947.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Bess:- Yesterday was one of the most hectic of days as I told you. I'm not sure what has been my worst day. But here is a situation fraught with terrible consequences. Suppose, for instance that Italy should fold up and that Tito then would march into the Po Valley. All the Mediterranean Coast of France then is open to Russian occupation and the iron curtain comes to Bordeaux, Calais, Antwerp and the Hague. We withdraw from Greece and Turkey and prepare for war. It just must not happen. But here I am confronted with a violently opposition Congress whose committees

would cost us 400 billions and untold  
lives, mostly civilian. So I must do  
what I can. I should at write you  
this stuff but you should know what  
I've been facing since Potsdam.

Bill Helm's book is a great disappoint-  
ment. It is a build up of Bill and not  
a biography of me. Too bad. The Potomac  
has a bad effect on all of us.

Hope you have a nice time a good  
party at the Heubelkach. I'm sure you will.  
I haven't resumed my walks yet but will  
in a day or two. Too much to read.

Gen. Bratley made a report to me today  
on his European trip and he remarked  
on my having had to make more mo-  
mentous decisions than nearly any other  
president. He's right, and I hope

2

with few exceptions, are living in 1890;  
is not representative of the country;  
thinking at all. But I've a job and it  
must be done - win lose or draw.

Sent letters to Teller, Bridges, Vandenberg  
and Eatton requesting them to call their  
committee together as soon as possible.  
Had my food committee together and  
will make a radio speech Sunday.  
To feed France and Italy this winter will  
cost 580 million, the Marshall Plan  $16\frac{1}{2}$   
billions. But you know in October & Nov-  
ember 1945 I canceled 63 billions in ap-  
propriations 55 billions at one crack.  
Our war cost that year was set at 105  
billions. The  $16\frac{1}{2}$  is for a four year period  
and is for peace. A Russian war

most of em have been right.

Edward Arnold came in to see me this afternoon and brought me wonderful pictures of all the Presidents. He told me and the office force some good stories about Sen Goldwyn, Harry Warner & Syros Skouras, imitating them in their manner and voice. It gave me some sides from laughing.

Tell the baby I'll write her soon.  
Hope Frank doesn't get another boil.  
Lots of love

Harry.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 9 1948

Dear Bess: I've been trying to write you ever since arrival here but just now succeeded in getting it done. I've had only one walk, that yesterday morning for twenty minutes and no swim at all.

The train was on time Tuesday night and the Democrats were on the south porch when I arrived. We talked until midnight when your call came in and then I read an outline of the platform gotten up by Sam Rosenman. That took until 1:30

2

Wednesday morning and then I went  
to sleep. Awoke at 5:30 as usual  
and heard the news, all about what  
Jas Roosevelt would do to me etc.  
Read the mail went to breakfast  
and to work; had few appointments  
so came back to the House at 12 and  
went to bed. Had sandwich and butter  
milk and went back to sleep.

Went over the platform again at 4 P.M.  
came back to the House at 7 had a  
big dinner and went to bed at 8:30.  
Never been as tired and groggy in my  
life. Think the sea had some effect after  
all.

Yesterday was the most hectic.  
Matt kept running in people to talk

to me - people I didn't want to see.  
These kids around me have all turned  
politicians and precinct captains -  
and they know nothing about it.

Finished the outline for the plat-  
form and sent it to Philly. Settled  
the R.R. strike and had Fred liaison  
to dinner. He stayed until 11:30 P.M.  
talking about every thing.

I still don't know what our pro-  
gram is. Biffle called and said he  
had a suite for you and Maggie  
at the Drake. Evidently they expect  
you to come to the Convention Tuesday  
or Wednesday. I don't know which. I'm  
supposed to go up there Wednesday

or Thursday. May be I can tell you  
what we are supposed to do Sunday  
on the phone. I don't know now.

It's worse than Chicago if that's  
possible. I wish I'd stayed on the  
farm and never gone to war in  
the first place!

Well take care of yourself. Kiss  
the daughter and tell everyone hello.  
Hope your mother is all right.

Lots of love //

Danny,

Cabinet at ten - and more nuts  
after that I guess.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1945

The Courts should be strictly judicial and not dabble in policy - except interpretation of the Constitution.

It is not at all proper for courts to try to make laws or to read law school theories into the law and policy laid down by the Congress.

We want no Gestapo or Secret Police. F.B.I.  
*HSD*

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

is tending in that direction. They are ~~still~~ dallying in sex life scandals and plain blackmail when they should be catching criminals. They also have a habit of sneering at local law enforcement officers.

This must stop. Cooperation is what we must have.



HES

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



I should like to see the  
Constitution amended  
to do away with all two  
thirds rules. This means  
treaty ratification and  
Presidential Veto's. These  
two matters should be  
accomplished by requiring  
a majority of both House  
and Senate—an actual  
majority of the membership  
not a majority of those  
present. Every legislator  
should be required to ex-  
press his opinion by vote

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



on these two most important legislative responsibilities. They should here be accomplished by unanimous consent. Impeachment should be made simpler and an impeachment court should be set up or the Supreme Court should conduct the trial. The result to be ratified by a majority of Senate and House - same sort of a majority as before stated.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

School system needs  
overhauling! Kids should  
learn more fundamental  
reading writing and arithmetic.  
"Freud psychology and  
"new doctors" should be  
eliminated.



2007



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

JUN 1 '45

Yesterday was "medal pinning day"; with one spilling over into this morning.

Case Steve Early a Distinguished Service Medal. He's earned one in the last 30 days - let alone the previous 17 years.

Called all the White House force into the rose garden and personally read the citation and pinned the medal on him. Said it was his mother's fiftieth and

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



both of us got sort of emotional. After the pictures we took something for our nerves and to calm our feelings.

In the morning I had given Mrs. Knox a Legion of Merit badge for the dead Secretary of the Navy. It was a nice ceremony too in the executive office with Secs. of War and Navy present with their aides and assistants & wives. Mrs. Hull was present.

Gave the Regent of Iraq a merit badge this morning. He is a nice young man

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



and not a bit upset. His Foreign Minister is also a regular fellow.

Have been going through some very hectic days. Eyes troubling somewhat. Too much reading fine print. Nearly every memorandum has a catch in it and it has been necessary to read at least a thousand open and as many reports. Most of it at night. See the Secretaries at 9:15 after dictating several mail

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



for 45 minutes, usually  
stop in the Tap Room at  
8:20 and spend ten minutes  
~~out of~~<sup>out of</sup> ship sinkings, cascade  
etc. Gather up dispatches  
from Stalin, Churchill, Hurley  
and others.

After discussing the day's  
prospects with Connelly,  
Ross Hassett, Th. Kim, and  
Early (Illinoian) then  
commence to see the cus-  
tomers. Usually Senators,  
Congressmen, Cabinet mem-  
bers and Missourians.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Saw Herbert Hoover day before yesterday and had a pleasant and constructive conversation on food and the general troubles of U.S. Presidents - this in particular.

We discussed our prima donnas and wondered what makes 'em. Some of my boys who come in with me are having trouble with their dignity and prerogatives. It's hell when a man gets in close association with the

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



President. Something happens  
to him. Study Ricordi and  
one or two others.

Some Senators and Con-  
gressmen come in and  
pass the time of day and then  
go out and help me save  
the world in the press.

That publicity complex is  
hell and few can escape  
its here. When a good man  
comes along who hasn't  
the bug they try to get him

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



The family left for Missouri last evening. Went to the train with them and rode to Silver Spring just as I did with my mother and sister a week or so ago. Daughter was in a very unsatisfactory humor. I hope - sincerely hope that this situation (my being President) is <sup>not</sup> going to affect her adversely. My great predecessor had a lot of trouble with his family. Most all of em sold him down the river and when they wasn't selling him they

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



"sold the country. But at  
that I sympathise with them.  
They were handicapped too.  
I'm trying to see that they  
get the same just treatment  
that other Americans get.

I'm always so lonesome  
when the family leaves. There  
is no one to raise a fuss over  
my neckties and my haircuts,  
my shoes and my clothes get-  
terally. I usually put on a  
terrible tie, not even Bob  
Hannegan or Ed McKim would  
wear just to get a loud  
protest from Bessie Maggie.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



When they are gone I have  
to put on the right ones and  
it's no fun.

Went to church this morning  
and beat the publicity bogs -  
Walked across Jackson Park with  
no advance detail and slipped  
into a rear pew of St. John's  
Church without attracting any  
notice whatever. Don't think  
over six people recognized me.  
Several soldiers & sailors stood  
and saluted me as I walked  
across the park but there  
were no curiosity seekers  
around and I enjoyed the

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



back of em.

Had dinner on the south porch all by myself. It is a beautiful outlook across the White House lawn to the Jefferson Memorial with the Washington Monument rising just to the left of the picture. And the Salvage Press, represented by Mr. Waldrop did everything possible to present the building of the Jefferson Memorial. It makes a lovely picture from that south porch.

Church was rather dull

THE WHITE HOUSE

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But I had a chance to do some thinking and the time was not wasted. A lot of the world's troubles have been caused by the interpretation of the Gospels and the controversies between sects and creeds. It is also silly and comes of the prima donna complex again.

The Jews claim God Almighty picked them out for special privilege. Well I'm sure He had better judgment. Fact is I never thought God picked any favorites. It is my

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



studied opinion that any race, creed or color can be God's protéte if they act the part - and very few of em do that.

June 4. 1945.

Some day Alabama Senators & Rep. Sparkman hear of a Board vacancy & want it for Alabama. I divine their activity.

Saw the Big Four from the Congress - W. Keller, Barkley Rayburn, W. McCormick. Rayburn spent week end in Maryland at the fishing resort of Jim Barnes - a grand old lobbyist

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



State guests sleep; the Lincoln and Roosevelt rooms and my own and the family quarters. I think they got a kick out of their high powered guide - so did I.

June 5 '48.

Another hectic day in the executive office. Saw a lot of customers. Hope they all left happy. Most of em did.

Took Ross, Snyder and Rosenman to the "House" for lunch. Had em upstairs in my so called "Study" and gave them a libation before we went to the family dining room

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



for lunch. Told the three  
of them that they were most  
in my confidence and that  
I wanted frank and unadul-  
terated statements of fact to  
me from them - and that when  
they couldn't treat me on that  
basis, they'd be of no use to me.

We had a nice lunch and  
discussed sale of war plants,  
Supplies, Property Board chair-  
man, and F.E.R.C. All loaded  
with political dynamite. We  
expressed opinions of various  
people including Guy Gillette  
and his successor. Guy can't  
make up his mind on anything.  
If God hold him to take charge

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



of Heaven, he'd be dead sure  
that Hell would be an easier  
place to run. Those know him  
to change his mind three times  
in as many conferences on  
one issue. He's very religious  
very good looking and is so an-  
xious to do what is right. But  
he can never make up his  
mind on what God wants.  
He had the power of deciding  
he'd be a great man. Too bad  
he has it.

Went to a party this evening  
for Leslie Biffle. ~~Bonita~~  
was the host. His Barkley; son-  
in-law. It was a surprise  
quest. Arrived at the Hotel

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Raleigh bby about seven o'clock. The secret service men were getting me through the bby pushing people right and left to make way for the President - politely of course. We came to the elevator and there were Biddle, several Congressmen and a Senator or two waiting to go up. The Secret Service men who take care of the Nation's chief Executive think only of the President and his convenience. Sometimes it is very embarrassing to a modest man.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



They began pushing Congress  
men, Senators and other big  
shots out of the way at the  
~~the~~ elevator - even including  
the guest of honor - Mr. Biffle.  
Biffle is rather slight in build  
weighing about 130 pounds so  
I grabbed him from behind  
by his elbows and shoved him  
into the elevator ahead of  
me. He thought he was being  
too roughly treated for a re-  
gular Raleigh guest and turned  
on me to express his opin-  
ion. When he saw who was  
was handling him, he was so  
surprised and happy that

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



it made me ashamed.

The dinner was one great success. ~~I~~ <sup>mistake</sup> called on Biff's Senator from Arkansas, Bill Fullbright, who made some very appropriate remarks. Then he called on Judge Pine, Sen. Scott Lucas, Sen. Hatch and his father-in-law Sen. Barkley. Barkley really spread himself. He not only paid a great tribute to Biff but he went out of his way to pay a very high compliment to me.

Wish we'd had a stenographer there. It was a heart-felt ovation from all of Biff & me.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Got back to the White House  
at 10:30. Called the Madam  
and talked to her and my baby  
girl (she does n't like that designa-  
tion). I can't help wanting to  
talk to my sweet heart and my  
baby every night. I'm a damn  
fool I guess because I could  
never get excited or worked  
up about gals or women. I  
only had one sweetheart from  
the time I was six. I saw  
her in Sunday School at the  
Presbyterian Church in Indepen-  
dence when my mother took  
me there at that age and  
afterwards in the 5th grade at  
the Off School in Independence.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



When Lee Aunt Nannie was  
our teacher and she sat be-  
hind me. She sat behind  
me in the sixth, seventh  
and High School grades and  
I thought she was the most  
beautiful and the sweetest  
person on earth - and I'm  
still of that opinion after  
twenty six years of being mar-  
ried to her. I'm old fashioned  
I guess. But it's a happy state  
to labor under in this terrible  
job I fell heir to on Apr. 12 45.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 7 '45

Looks like San Francisco would be a success yet. Much Joe agreed to accept our interpretation of the Veto. He also agreed to reconsider the Polish question. We may get a peace yet. Hopkins has done a good job in Moscow.

Daniels did a good one in Britain. It was a good thought when they were sent over.

Montana went haywire and elected a Republican Congressman and Wheeler went haywire in Italy on the Russians. Every time

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



We get things going half way  
right with the Soviets some  
smart aleck has to attack  
them. If it isn't Willie Hearst,  
it's Bertie M. Cormack or  
Bert Wheeler ~~is~~ <sup>it is</sup> some other  
bird who wanted to appease  
Germany but just can't see  
any good in Russia. I'm  
not afraid of Russia. They've  
always been our friends and  
I can't see any reason why  
they shouldn't always be. The  
only trouble is the crazy Amer-  
ican Communist. There is  
only one in a million

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



of our population but they  
are loyal to Stalin and not  
to the American President.  
I'd like to send them to Russia.  
Uncle Joe would promptly send  
them to Siberia or a concen-  
tration camp I'm sure. But  
I can't do that and wouldn't  
if I could. Emma Goldman  
and William Z. Foster based  
by experience that the dicta-  
torship of the proletariat is  
no different from the Czar  
or Hitler. There's no socialism  
in Russia. It's the last bed  
of special privilege.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



A common everyday citizen  
has about as much to say  
about his government as a  
stock holder in the Standard  
Oil of New Jersey has about his  
Company. But I don't care  
what they do. They evidently  
like their government or  
they wouldn't die for it. I  
like ours so let's get along.

You know Americans are  
funny birds. They are always  
sticking their noses into  
somebody's business which  
isn't any of theirs.  
We send missionaries and

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



political propagandists to  
China, Turkey, India and  
everywhere to tell those people  
how to live. Most often know  
as much or more than we  
do. Russia won't let them in.  
But when Russia puts out  
propaganda to help our  
parlor tricks - well that's  
bad - so we think. There is  
not any difference between  
the two approaches except  
one is my "approach" and  
the other is "yours." Just  
a "most & least" affair.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



The United States was created by the boys and girls who ~~get along~~ couldn't get along at home. So called Puritans who were it by any manner of means pure came to Mass to try out their own witch burning theories. Roger Williams could it stand in any better than they could stand England under the Stuarts.

Most every colony on the East Coast was founded for about the same reason by folks who couldn't get along at home. But by amalgamation we're made a very good

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



country and a great nation  
with a reasonably good gov-  
ernment. I want to main-  
tain it and shall do all I  
can in spite of the hyphenates  
and crackpots.

I see no more use for  
Polish Americans, Irish Amer-  
icans, Swedish Americans or  
any other sort of hyphenate  
than I have for Communist-  
Americans. They all have some  
other loyalty than the one they  
should have. Maybe the old  
metting post will take care of  
it. I hope so.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 17 '65.

Went down the River today  
on the Potomac to discuss  
plan, issues, and decisions.  
Took Charlie Ross, straight think-  
er, honest man who tells  
me the truth so I understand  
stand what he means;  
Matt Coanally, shrewd fish-  
man, who raises up the  
chips and shows me the  
flags, lowest, fair, diplomatic  
with me; Judge Fred Vinson,  
straight shooter, knows Con-  
gress and how they think

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



a man to trust, Judge  
Rosencrantz, one of the ablest  
in Washington, keen mind, a  
lucid pen, a loyal Roosevelt  
man and an equally loyal  
Truman man; Steve Early,  
a keen observer, political and  
other wise, has acted as my  
hatchet man, absolutely loyal  
and trustworthy, same can  
be said as about Rosencrantz.

We discussed public relations  
in Germany, Italy, France, Hol-  
land, Belgium, England and  
Russia. Food, fuel, transporta-  
tion and what to do about it.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Japanese War and the relations with China, Russia, and Britain with regard to it; Supreme Commander and what to do with Gen. Persia Dona, Brass Hat, Five Star McArthur. He's worse than the Cabots and the Lodges - they at least talked with one another before they told God what to do. Mc tells God right off. It is a very great pity we have to have stuffed shirts like that in key positions. I do it see why in Hell Roosevelt didn't order Wainwright home and

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



let Mr. Arthur be a martyr.  
Guess he was afraid of the  
Datatog Press - M. McCormick -  
Patterson Axis. We'd have had  
a real General and a fighting  
man if we had Wainright  
and not a play actor and  
a fence man such as we  
have now.

Don't see how a country  
can produce such men as  
Robert E. Lee, John J. Pershing,  
Eisenhower, Bradley and at  
the same time produce Custer,  
Patterson and Mr. Arthur.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



I have to decide Japanese strategy - shall we invade Japan proper or shall we fort and blockade? That is my hardest decision to date. But I'll make it when I have all the facts.

So you see we talk about more than "Cabbages & Kings and Sealing wax and things"

They talked of many things  
Shoes and sealing wax and  
cabbages and kings

FILE NO.  
CA31/

U. S. S. AUGUSTA



Monday, July 9, 45  
FLEET POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Had a very pleasant Sunday. Went to church with Ship's Captain, Sec. State and aides. Then had a shower and a nap. Good lunch and a probabilities game with Ross, Vaughan and three press assn. men; ended pleasantly with my doing some satisfactory guessing on my opponents hole cards.

Good picture show - Bob Hope in Technicolor as a pirate's victim in the West Indies.

Arose at 6:15 as usual this morning, took a turn around the deck and then breakfast. Had dinner last night in the officers mess or ward room.

Maneuvers and firing at 8:30. Eight inch fire incl and 40 mm. Most interesting to see cause of field artillery experience. Big still rather fire a battery than run a country.

Had lunch with warrant officers. It was a  
good one. There is an excellent band of  
30 pieces and an orchestra from the same  
unit. They make excellent music at all  
meals but breakfast. They are proud of  
like good music and they play it for me.

8/15/50 a prayer said over & over, see back

Oh! Almighty and Everlasting  
God, Creator of Heaven, Earth  
and the Universe:-



Help me to be, to think, to act ~~what~~  
right, make me truthful, honest  
and honorable in all things; make  
me intellectually honest for the  
sake of right and honor and  
without thought of reward to me.  
Give me the ability to be charitable,  
forgiving and patient with my fellow-  
men - help me to understand their  
motives and their shortcomings -  
even as thou understandest mine!  
Amen, Amen, Amen!

The prayer on the other side  
of this page has been said by  
me - by Harry S. Truman from  
high school days: as window washer,  
tooth duster, floor scrubber in an  
Independence, Mo. drug store, as  
a timekeeper on a railroad contract  
gang, as an employee of an untruth-  
ful and character assassinating new-  
paper, as a bank clerk, as a farmer  
riding a gang plow behind four horses  
and mules, as a paternity official  
learning to say nothing at all if good  
could not be said of a man, as a public  
official judging the weaknesses and  
shortcomings of local, friends  
and as President of the U.S.A.

A prayer said over & over all my life  
from eighteen years old and younger.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

8-15-'50

Oh! Almighty and Everlasting  
God, Creator of Heaven, Earth and the  
Universe:-



Help me to be, to think, to act what  
is right, because it is right; make  
me truthful, honest and honorable  
in all things; make me intellectually  
honest for the sake of right and  
honor and without thought of  
reward to me. Give me the ability  
to be charitable, forgiving and pa-  
tient with my fellowmen. Help me  
to understand their motives and  
their shortcomings - even as thou  
understandest mine!

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Nov. 30, 1950

A most trying and hectic week.  
The last session of the 81<sup>st</sup> Congress has  
been in session for a few days and it  
looks as if there are more morons  
than patriots in it. My friend Harry  
Byrd says he has the professional southerners  
lined up against Yugoslav Ad. Wondol  
if he'd like being branded Stalin's No. 2  
helper in the Senate. McCarthy of Wisconsin  
is No. 1. Ellender, a leftover of the Huey  
Long regime in Louisiana and Jim Eastland  
a Dixiecrat from Mississippi have de-  
cided against Statehood for Alaska and  
Hawaii - color and power!

Fullbright from Arkansas, an Okie  
man wants the R.F.C. handicapped and  
Gene Cox of Georgia wants to restore the

power of the Rules Committee in the House to throttle legislation. I suppose that Presidents in the past have had hostile Congresses - but they were frankly of the opposition. This one - the 81<sup>st</sup> happens to be of my own party on the surface. But the majority is made up of Republicans and recalcitrant Southern Democrats - who are not Democrats. So I get the responsibility and the blame.

There are liars, tricksters and pussy footers on both sides of the aisle in the Senate and the House. I'm sorry. I wish I had straight out opposition and loyal support. I guess it is too much to ask for!

Feb. 18, 1952

Had a grand meeting tonight from 6:40 to 11:25 P.M. Dinner and a discussion of the Presidential Campaign. Present were the Chief Justice, Fred Vinson, Sam Rosenman, William D. Hassett, Clark Clifford, John R. Steelman, Charles Murphy.

The discussion was about possible candidates for President, including the present occupant of the White House.

The Chief Justice opened the discussion by saying that while he did not believe in the indispensable man he did not see how the President could refuse another term. Sam Rosenman came to the same conclusion. Mr. Hassett thought the President should do what he wanted to do and retire and let the

conditions work out the result.  
Dr. Steelman thought that some-  
one could surely be found to  
work out the succession. Clark  
Clifford thought Bob Kerr might  
qualify. Mr. Murphy discussed Adair  
Stevenson pro and con. No real  
conclusions were reached. Every  
one made a contribution.





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1952

The conferences on the Korean  
Communist are propaganda sound-  
ing boards for the Communists.

Charge them with murdering  
our soldiers and civilians who  
are prisoners of war against  
every rule of the Geneva con-  
vention. Charge them with kid-  
napping children in south  
Korea just as they are doing  
in Berlin and as they did  
in Greece. Thousands of German  
children have been deported  
in the last seven years and  
have never been heard from.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



1500 Greek children were taken from their homes and and their parents while the Communists occupied northern Greece. Where are these Korean German and Greek children? Are they been murdered? We believe they have.

What has happened to the 1,000,000 German prisoners the Soviet holds or have they also been murdered as the Poles were murdered at Katyn? Where are the million Japs

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Who surrendered to the Russians?  
Are they numbered or are they  
in slave labor camps?

How many South Koreans and  
Allied prisoners have you shot  
without cause. You claim  
you hold only 17000 prisoners.  
Where are the other thousands  
of civilians and soldiers you  
carried off from South Korea?

If you signed an agree-  
ment it wouldn't be worth  
the paper it is written on.